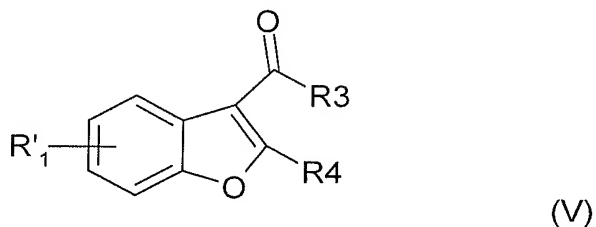


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Please cancel claims 1 – 15

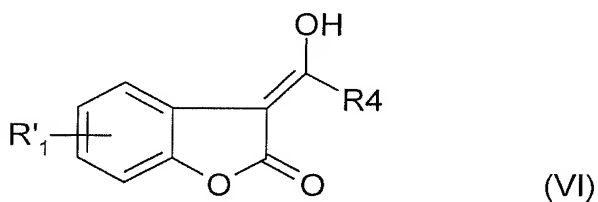
16.(Original) A compound of formula (V)



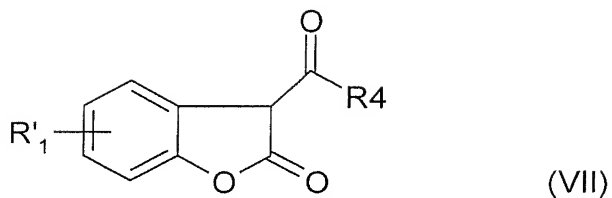
in which R₃ represents a hydroxyl radical or represents a halogen atom, R₄ represents a linear or branched alkyl radical including from 2 to 5 carbon atoms and R'₁ represents a nitro radical.

17.(Original) The compound according to Claim 16, characterized in that R'₁ represents a nitro radical in the 5 position and R₄ represents an n-butyl radical.

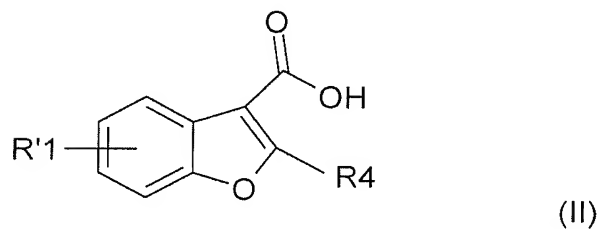
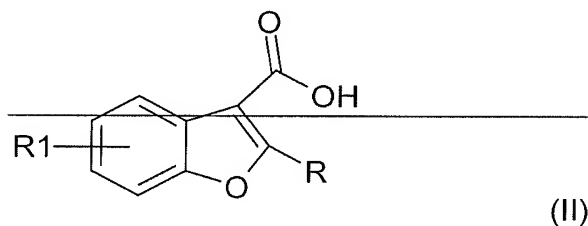
18.(Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a 2-(n-alkyl)-3-carboxybenzofuran of formula (II), characterized in that a 3-(1-hydroxyalkylidene)-3H-benzofuran-2-one of formula (VI):



or its 3-alkanoyl-3H-benzofuran-2-one ketonic tautomeric form of formula (VII):



in which R4 represents a linear or branched alkyl radical including from 2 to 5 carbon atoms and R'1 represents a nitro radical, is treated by heating and by an acid catalyst in concentrated aqueous solution of at least 80% by weight and then the expected product of formula (II)



is isolated.

- 19.(Original) Process according to Claim 18, characterized in that the treatment by heating of the compound of formula (VI) or of formula (VII) is carried out in a carboxylic acid.
- 20.(Original) The process of claim 18, wherein the acid catalyst in concentrated aqueous solution is concentrated sulphuric acid at between 80% and 95% by weight.

21.(Canceled)